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HEALTH
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BOROUGH OF



GILLINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended 31st December, 1954

By

M. L. DUNLOP, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

1955



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Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Gillingham, Kent.

July, 1955.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1954.

The birth rate remained the same as in the previous year, 13.9 per 1,000 of the civilian population.

The death rate was 8.4 per 1,000 of the civilian population and is the lowest recorded for the Borough. Deaths from Cancer were 21.8% of the total deaths. The death rate for children under one year was 28.1 per 1,000 live births.

As regards infectious diseases, the year was a very healthy one. There were no cases of Diphtheria notified for the sixth successive year, Scarlet Fever cases showed a reduction on the previous year and there was one case of Poliomyelitis. Following the epidemic of Measles in 1953, only eleven cases were notified during the year and the number of Whooping Cough cases was fewer.

During the year representations were made in respect of Clearance Areas in Brompton, and other areas in the town were also inspected. These inspections show the matter of clearing unfit houses in the Borough will not be a serious problem, providing a full staff of Sanitary Inspectors is available.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. Hedgecock and the District Sanitary Inspectors, who have had extra duties to perform, for their whole-hearted support, the Clerical Staff for their valuable assistance and Mr. Pett who compiled the figures for this report.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. L. DUNLOP,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS

Medical Officer of Health :

*Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers : (School Health Service)

R. I. Porter (part-time).

J. Rolley (part-time).

L. M. Corall (part-time).

S. N. Shenai (part-time). (Resigned June).

N. Browne (part-time). (Commenced September).

Ophthalmologist : (School Health Service)

J. E. Clark (part-time).

Dental Surgeons : (School Health Service)

William C. Griffiths, L.D.S., R.C.S.

H. de V. Davis, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

*F. J. Hedgecock, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Inst. Mun.E.

District Sanitary Inspectors:

*R. C. Langley, M.S.I.A.

*F. G. Barney, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*A. G. Brimble, M.S.I.A.

*N. Smith, M.S.I.A.

*D. W. Townsend, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors : (School Health Service)

(a) N. Legg, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.

(a) E. M. Ross, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.

(b) J. Tombleson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.

(b) E. W. Jordan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.

(b) D. G. Purt, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.

(b) P. Mordue, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert. (Commenced Sept.).

(c) H. V. Wilson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.

(d) A. C. Neesam, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Chief Clerk :

S. Pett.

Clerks :

J. Clark.

E. Dwyer.

R. C. Thomas (School Health Service).

† P. J. Beer (School Health Service).

B. McCauley.

B. D. Hall.

Dental Attendants

L. Scott.
A. E. Turner.

Disinfector :

John Sparks.

Rodent Operative :

W. E. Goodwin.

NOTES.

* Indicates officials to whose salaries contribution is made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

- (a) General trained nurse, half time to School Health Service.
- (b) General trained nurse, one-third time to School Health Service.
- (c) General trained nurse, three-quarters time devoted to School Health Service.
- (d) General trained nurse, School and Clinic Nurse.

† One-half time to School Health Service., one-half time K.C.C.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres (land, inland water and foreshore)...	11,201
Rateable Value (April, 1954)	£420,204
Estimated Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (1954-55)	£1,725
In 1953-54 the total Rates were 24/6 in the £ (excluding water rates and charges).	

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Total Population	(Registrar General)	...	79,040
------------------	---------------------	-----	--------

Live Births

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	13.9
---	--------	------

Still Births

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	20.4
--	-----	------

Deaths (all causes)

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population	8.4
--	--------	-----

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

		Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	... ..	0.00
Other Maternal Causes	... ..	0.88
		<hr/>
Total	... ..	0.88
		<hr/>

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	28.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	26.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	75.0

Deaths in Public Institutions

Two hundred and forty-four or 36.9 per cent of the total, took place in Institutions.

Natural Increase of Population

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1954 was 542 and for previous years as follows :—

Year								Natural Increase of Population
1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	527
1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	728
1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	647
1948	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	496
1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	325
1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	237
1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	251
1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	354
1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	332
1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	542

Cancer

						Cancer Death Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1945	...	...	...	...	...	2.1	16.6
1946	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	15.9
1947	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	15.0
1948	...	...	...	...	...	2.4	19.9
1949	...	...	...	...	...	2.1	15.9
1950	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	16.4
1951	...	...	...	...	...	1.6	14.6
1952	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	18.4
1953	...	...	...	...	...	1.6	17.1
1954	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	21.8

Violence

Deaths from motor vehicle accidents numbered 3, from suicide 8 and from "all other accidents" 12.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox

No cases were notified during 1954.

Scarlet Fever

Notifications numbered 55. 13 cases were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria

No cases were notified.

TABLE SHOWING NOTIFICATIONS OF DIPHTHERIA
From 1918 to 1954

Period	No. Notified	Deaths Registered.
1918-27	78 (Avg.)	—
1928	213	10
1929	179	17
1930	42	1
1931	19	1
1932	8	—
1933	17	1
1934	52	4
1935	27	5
1936	17	2
1937	42	1
1938	157	4
1939	86	1
1940	28	1
1941	5	—
1942	7	—
1943	3	—
1944	3	—
1945	2	—
1946	2	—
1947	NIL	—
1948	4	—
1949	NIL	—
1950	NIL	—
1951	NIL	—
1952	NIL	—
1953	NIL	—
1954	NIL	—

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1954

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Borough of Gillingham, who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1954 :—

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Total
Primary Inoculations	65	540	110	29	15	27	22	8	8	3	2	4	—	—	—	833
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	29	280	141	58	57	32	23	226	10	4	1	861

(B) Vaccination

Year of Birth	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	Before 1940	Total
Primary Vaccination	330	245	13	5	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	—	1	1	17	633
Re-Vaccination	—	—	2	2	3	2	1	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	1	44	63

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1954

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Borough of Gillingham under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1940).

Year of Birth	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1950-1954	41	106	245	355	455	744	903	763	703	943	790	751	750	605	65	8219
1940 or earlier	425	394	283	403	378	38	32	56	164	25	—	—	—	—	—	2108

Puerperal Pyrexia

Four cases were notified. The patients recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Five cases were notified, and made a complete recovery.

Enteric Fever Group

No cases were notified.

Dysentery

25 cases were notified. These were caused by B Sonne.

Anterior Poliomyelitis

One case was notified. The patient made a complete recovery.

Pneumonia

25 cases were notified.

Measles and Whooping Cough

				Number of cases notified	Deaths
Measles	...	...	...	11	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	161	1

Disinfections

Houses disinfected by Formalin spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 157 compared with 146 in the previous year.

Tuberculosis

Notification of new cases :—

				Pulmonary Rate per 1,000 of population	Non-Pulmonary Rate per 1,000 of population
1945	...	...	...	1.24	0.5
1946	...	...	...	1.45	0.4
1947	...	...	...	1.69	0.3
1948	...	...	...	1.05	0.3
1949	...	...	...	1.07	0.2
1950	...	...	...	0.86	0.1
1951	...	...	...	0.8	0.1
1952	...	...	...	0.9	0.1
1953	...	...	...	1.4	0.1
1954	...	...	...	0.8	0.1

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1930

					Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Total
Number on Register at 1st January,							
1954	...	...	...	...	573	95	668
Number on Register at 31st Decem-							
ber, 1954	...	...	...	...	589	88	677

Notifications

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases during 1954.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	1	1	—
5—14 years	3	3	—	1
15—24 „	9	8	1	1
25—44 „	11	8	—	2
45—64 „	10	6	1	1
65 and over	3	—	—	1
Total ...	36	26	3	6

Tuberculosis Death Rate

The following table is inserted for purposes of comparison :

Year	Death Rates per 1,000 of Population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1945	0.62	0.48	0.14
1946	0.74	0.63	0.11
1947	0.71	0.58	0.13
1948	0.61	0.55	0.06
1949	0.50	0.47	0.03
1950	0.39	0.33	0.06
1951	0.36	0.31	0.05
1952	0.21	0.16	0.05
1953	0.16	0.13	0.03
1954	0.09	0.00	0.00

Particulars of patients from the Gillingham Area dealt with at the Chest Clinic, during 1954.

(These figures were kindly supplied by Dr. S. R. C. Price, Chest Physician).

	Adults		Children		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulmonary	37	23	3	4	40	27
Non-pulmonary	2	2	—	1	2	3
Total	39	25	3	5	42	30
	64		8		72	
Non-tuberculous	190	277	161	154	351	431
Grand Total	229	302	164	159	393	461
	531		323		854	

Total attendances numbered 2,235.

Number of patients sent to Sanatoriums or Hospitals—66.

Venereal Diseases

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Routh, Director of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee's Special Clinic in Rochester, for the subjoined figures.

New Patients—Gillingham :

				Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	4	6	10
Soft sore	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	—	12	12
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	38	17	55
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...			42	35	77
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year numbered 31, which represents an infant mortality rate of 28.1 per 1,000 births.

The rate for England and Wales was 25.5 and for " the Great Towns " including London, 29.1.

Maternal Mortality

There was one death associated with pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.88.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS DURING 1954

CAUSE OF DEATH (Local register)	AGE AT DEATH									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital malformations	2	1	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
Cerebral haemorrhage ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Other causes	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	1	6
ALL CAUSES	17	1	1	—	19	4	4	2	2	31

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS FOR THE YEARS 1945 TO 1954

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number of still births	22	41	39	25	15	21	33	30	20	23
Number of neo-natal deaths	31	33	33	21	28	23	20	23	19	19
Total number of still births and neo-natal deaths	53	74	72	46	43	44	53	53	39	42
Number of deaths of infants 1 to 12 months of age	31	16	32	14	14	14	10	3	9	12
Number of live births	1231	1470	1446	1261	1154	1046	1065	1104	1050	1103
Number of still births	22	41	39	25	15	21	33	30	20	23
Total live and still births	1253	1511	1485	1286	1169	1067	1098	1134	1070	1126

MORTALITY RATES CALCULATED PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Still births	17	27	26	19	13	20	30	26	19	20
Neo-natal deaths	24	22	22	16	24	21	18	20	18	17
Deaths of infants 1 to 12 months of age	24	10	22	11	12	13	9	3	8	11
Still births and all deaths up to 1 year	66	59	71	47	49	54	57	49	45	48
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	50	33	45	28	36	35	28	23	27	28

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Thirty-seven water samples were taken during the year; 14 from the Gillingham area and 23 from the Rainham area. All proved satisfactory.

21,510 dwellings are supplied directly from the mains, this is 99.9% of the total number of dwellings in the Borough, which consist of:—

Houses	...	...	...	...	...	20,700
Houses and shops	...	...	...	...	...	704
Houses and business premises	...	...	...	...	...	29
Licensed houses	...	...	...	...	...	97
Boarding houses	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total dwellings						<hr/> 21,535 <hr/>

Sanitary Inspection

This portion of the report has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. F. J. Hedgecock, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Premises, Etc., Visited During 1954

	No. of Visits
Milk shops and dairies and retailers of bottled sterilised milk	384
Bakehouses, Pastry Cooks and Confectioners...	79
Refreshment houses or premises where food is prepared	4,509
Merchandise Marks Act	430
Shops under Shops Acts...	1,379
Miscellaneous, including Pet Animals Act	751
Factories, workshops and workplaces	774
Re notified infectious diseases	184
Houses (filthy or verminous)	20
Piggeries and Stables	170
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	27
Public lavatories	1,371
Drains tested	752
Complaints received	1,738

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The subjoined table shows the premises on the registers and the number of inspections made.

	On Register 31st Dec.	No of visits during 1954
Bakehouses	9	40
Dairies and Milkshops	12	384
Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	138	
Fried Fish Shops	36	105
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises	60	81
Premises registered for sale of Ice Cream	215	667

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Particulars of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :—

Article.	No. of Samples.	Article.	No. of Samples.
Almond Flavouring ... I		Lime Cordial I	
Arrowroot I		Mixed Spice I	
Biscuits I		Milk 67	
Bicarbonate of Soda ... I		Margarine I	
Bread Crumbs I		Meat Pies I	
Cream of Tartar I		Orange Drinks 2	
Cream 2		Orange Squash 6	
Dripping I		Pickle I	
Desiccated Coconut ... I		Pineapple Slices... .. I	
Coffee 6		Pie Filling I	
Cake & Flour Mixture 3		Processed Peas I	
Cake 2		Pearl Barley I	
Custard & Blancmange		Pepper 4	
Powder 5		Self-raising Flour ... I	
Cooking Compound ... I		Sauces & Condiments ... 4	
Honey I		Sausages I	

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—*continued.*

Grapefruit Squash	...	4	Salmon Spread	...	1
Ground Ginger...	...	1	Semolina...	...	2
Glycerine & Honey	...	1	Sweets	...	5
Glycerine	...	1	Sponge & Pudding		
Gelatine	...	1	Mixtures	...	3
Jam	...	10	Tapioca	...	1
Jelly	...	1	Thyme	...	1
Ice Cream	...	3	Vinegar	...	2
Iced Lollies	...	3	Vitacup	...	1
Lemonade Powder	...	1	Vanilla Flavouring	...	2
Lemon Squash	...	2			

Total number of samples taken—168.

No samples were certified as adulterated.

Unsound Food

Amount of food condemned weighed 5 tons and 20 lbs. This included tinned foods, flour, cheese and hams.

Housing Summary

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	1510
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					4430
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	...	...	...	...	319
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					721
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	13
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	320

Housing Summary—continued.

2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	222
3.	Action under statutory powers during the year :—	
	(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	396
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	448
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	9
	(b) Proceedings under Housing Act :—	
	(1) Demolition Orders	13
	(2) Closing Orders	—
	(3) Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	—
	(4) Houses demolished during 1954 as the result of formal action under the Act ..	18

Nuisances Abated

Water Closets :

Lavatory basins provided	2
New pans and traps fitted	23
Water closets re-built	1
New water closets constructed	2
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	69
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired...	28

Water Supply :

Pipes repaired	3
Internal supply provided	4

Yards :

Drained and paved with cement concrete	5
---	---

Sinks and Baths :

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	11
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	13

Nuisances Abated—*continued*.

Drainage :

Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	214
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department	...					742
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...		65
Cesspools cleared by Health Department	...	...				320

Dampness :

Roofs repaired and made watertight	...	...	...			158
Eaves guttering and down pipes provided or repaired						78
External walls protected from dampness	...	...				71
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	134
Damp-proof courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	73
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...		6
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	...	...				2

General

Disused cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...		11
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	...	...	...	...		1
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	...	...	...	...		1
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	...	...	...	...		29
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired	...					218
Ceilings repaired and distempered	...	...	...	...		94
Back additions underpinned and repaired	...	...	...	...		2
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	35

Preliminary and Abatement Notices

During the year the following notices were served :—

Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	324
Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances (Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936)	...						98
Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Maintenance of a public sewer)	...	...	...	...	...		192
Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	...	...	...	...	...		48
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Construction of W.C.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to repair defective closet)	...	...	...	...	...		17
Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Leaking Cesspools)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, Section 72, respecting choked or defective drains	...	...	...	...			16

Preliminary and Abatement Notices—continued

Section 56 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Yard Paving)	5
Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Provision of Dustbins) 	42
Total 	<hr/> 745 <hr/>

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Rats	Mice
Number of complaints received ...	141	90
Infestations found	130	81
Infestations found on independent investigation 	133	37

Action taken :—

Premises treated by Operator ...	262	118
---------------------------------------	-----	-----

Sewer Treatment :—

Number of manholes treated ...	417
-------------------------------------	-----

Factories Act, 1937

There are 272 factories on the register ; 604 inspections were made. Outworkers premises numbered 157.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs, Disinfections, etc.

The number of houses found to be infested was :—

Council Houses 	29
Other Houses 	66
Bedding removed and disinfected 	198
Total number of rooms sprayed for Bugs, T.B., etc.	661
Total number of articles disinfected 	3,464

Table showing:—(a) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1954.
(b) The number removed to Hospital.

(Local Records).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED (Diagnosis Corrected)													
	YEARS													
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	Over 65	Total cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	55	—	2	1	6	2	33	9	1	1	—	—	—	13
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas... ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	3	—
Pneumonia	25	—	1	2	—	—	6	2	—	1	4	5	4	1
Measles	11	—	1	1	—	2	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough...	161	9	22	23	16	18	68	2	1	1	1	—	—	3
Dysentery... ..	25	1	—	—	—	3	14	—	—	6	—	—	1	3
Peurperal Pyrexia ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	9	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	1

**Causes of Deaths amongst Civilians, Live Births and Still Births
as provided by the Registrar-General:—**

CAUSES OF DEATH						Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	14	9	23
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	16	3	19
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	11	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	13	13
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	...	...	...	...	36	43	79
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	39	51	90
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	47	34	81
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	7	16
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	44	59	103
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	14	15	29
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	10	10	20
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	21	12	33
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	5	3	8
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	10	1	11
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	22	36	58
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	10	2	12
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
ALL CAUSES						335	326	661
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—								
Legitimate						17	11	28
Illegitimate						—	3	3
Total						17	14	31
Births				For Infant Mortality, etc.				
				M.	F.	Total		
LIVE BIRTHS :—								
Legitimate				542	521	1063		
Illegitimate				20	20	40		
Total				562	541	1103		
Still BIRTHS :—								
Legitimate				15	6	21		
Illegitimate				1	1	2		
Total				16	7	23		

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, Gillingham is an "excepted district."

Number on School Roll	10667
Average attendance December, 1954	9475
" Periodic " cases examined	3957
Total medical examinations	7344
Visits to schools by nurses	433
Visits to homes by nurses	610
Inspections by school dentists	5809
Treated by school dentists	4732
Percentage of average attendance found verminous	2.6
Percentage of average attendance excluded for verminous conditions	0.5
Total attendances at various clinics (dental excluded)	4450

Nutrition

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Education, children examined at periodic medical inspections are classified as " Good," " Fair," or " Poor."

The figures for the past ten years are as follows :—

Year	Good %	Fair %	Poor %
1945	22.90	72.60	4.50
1946	19.10	77.40	3.50
1947	17.50	77.50	5.00
1948	34.80	61.80	3.40
1949	51.10	44.30	4.60
1950	81.10	17.40	1.50
1951	85.01	14.86	0.13
1952	87.59	12.11	0.30
1953	77.69	19.59	2.72
1954	71.39	26.49	2.12

Heights and Weights

Age	BOYS			GIRLS		
	Number exam- ined	Average		Number exam- ined	Average	
		Height in inches	Weight in lbs.		Height in inches	Weight in lbs.
4-5 years	76	42.3	42.1	82	42.4	40.6
5-6 "	521	43.8	42.6	497	43.7	43.5
6-7 "	70	46.2	48.7	57	46.0	48.2
7-8 "	245	50.7	57.6	285	47.3	52.1
8-9 "	192	50.3	58.6	243	48.7	56.1
9-10 ,	—	—	—	1	52.0	69.0
10-11 "	356	55.1	72.9	276	55.2	73.8
11-12 "	143	55.9	76.7	148	56.0	76.7
12-13 "	57	57.9	86.4	—	—	—
13-14 "	96	61.4	101.4	—	—	—
14-15 "	236	62.4	112.3	224	63.2	115.0
15-16 "	94	65.5	116.1	80	63.7	118.5
16-17 "	1	70.0	141.0	—	—	—

Provision of Milk

Milk is provided free of charge to all school children. During December 8,496 children were supplied with milk each day. This represents 79.5 % of the total number of children on the roll.

Infectious Diseases

The following summary gives the number of patients excluded during the years 1945-54 (Private schools included).

				Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases
1945	...	...	...	62	1
1946	...	...	...	22	1
1947	...	...	...	31	—
1948	...	...	...	17	4
1949	..	...	...	42	—
1950	...	...	...	51	—
1951	...	...	...	38	—
1952	...	...	...	119	—
1953	...	...	...	49	—
1954	...	...	...	42	—

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-Pox, Mumps, etc.

	1952	1953	1954
Measles	98	340	1
German measles	5	19	3
Whooping cough	65	72	41
Chicken-pox	136	5	109
Mumps	164	3	4

Following-up by Nurses

The nurses paid 610 home visits, of which 191 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases.

Summary of Nurses Work

(1) Total visits to schools	433
(2) Attendances at routine medical inspections	224
(3) Attendances at clinics	601
(4) Visits to home re	
(a) Defective children	419
(b) Infectious diseases	191
(5) Examination of heads and bodies re cleanliness	25,135
(6) Notices sent re nits (children not excluded from school)	70
(7) Notices sent re nits and vermin (children excluded from school)	52

Attendances at Treatment Clinics

			Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1954	Total 1953
Ringworm	...	...	29	29	58	93
Ear defects	...	...	84	78	162	228
Impetigo	...	...	163	178	341	108
Scabies	{ School children	...	3	1	4	35
	{ Others	...	—	—		
	{ Contacts	...	—	—		
Other skin diseases	...	...	167	51	218	217
External eye disease	...	...	424	94	518	579
Other conditions	...	...	1,248	927	2,175	2,689
Totals			2,118	1,358	3,476	3,949

Children suffering from the following conditions made first attendances for inspection :—

			Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1954	Total 1953
Catarrh, sore throats, colds etc.			31	18	49	62
Vermín of head or body, nits, etc.	...	...	125	23	148	118
Ringworm	...	...	6	5	11	15
Impetigo	...	...	31	55	86	54
Scabies	{ School children	...	1	1	2	15
	{ Others	...	—	—		
	{ Contacts	...	—	—		
Other skin diseases	...	...	60	28	88	93
Defective vision, sore eyes, etc.			218	67	285	319
Nose and throat diseases	...		8	8	16	19
Tubercular and pretubercular conditions	...	...	—	—	—	1
Chorea	...	...	—	1	1	1
Epilepsy	...	...	1	—	1	2
Ear disease	...	...	45	20	65	88
Heart disease	...	...	2	—	2	2
Rheumatism	...	...	—	—	—	2
Deformities	...	...	2	3	5	4
Convalescents from infectious diseases	...	...	16	25	41	75
Other diseases and defects	...		343	303	646	741
Totals			889	557	1,446	1,611

Orthoptic Clinic

During the year 30 cases were referred to St. William's Hospital, Rochester for the orthoptic treatment of children suffering from squint.

Nose and Throat Defects

88 children received operative treatment.

Ophthalmic Clinic

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus :—

Sessions held	...	...	...	...	...	49
Number of children examined for first time	...					146
Number of children re-examined	...	...				828
Total attendances	...	...	...	...		974
Glasses prescribed	...	...	...	...		314
Glasses not required or no change necessary	...					660
Referred to hospital	...	...	...	...		30

Handicapped Pupils requiring education at Special Schools or Boarding in Boarding Homes

1954	Blind (1)	Partially sighted (2)	Deaf (3)	Partially deaf (4)	Delicate (5)	Physically handicapped (6)	Educationally subnormal (7)	Maladjusted (8)	Epileptic (9)	Total 1—9 (10)
In the calendar year :										
A. Handicapped Pupils newly placed in Special Schools or Homes	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	2	7
B. Handicapped Pupils newly ascertained as requiring education at Special Schools or boarding in Homes	—	—	—	—	6	—	13	1	1	21
On or about December 1st :—										
C. No. of Handicapped pupils from the area—										
(i) attending Special Schools as										
(a) Day Pupils	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Boarding Pupils ...	—	4	5	1	2	7	15	9	1	44
(ii) boarded in Homes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) attending independent schools under arrangements made by the Authority	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL (C)	—	4	5	1	2	7	15	9	1	44
D. No. of Handicapped Pupils being educated under arrangements made under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944—										
(i) in hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) elsewhere	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) at home	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
E. No. of Handicapped pupils from the area requiring places in special schools (including any such unplaced children who are temporarily receiving home tuition or whose parents have not yet consented to their attending a Special School):—										
(i) Day	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	22
(ii) Boarding	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4

Handicapped Pupils requiring education at Special Schools or Boarding in Boarding Homes—*continued*

Number of children reported during the year :—

(a) under Section 57(3) (excluding any returned under (b) )	...	...	—
(b) under Section 57(3) relying on Section 57(4)	...	...	—
(c) under Section 57(5)	...	...	1

of the Education Act, 1944.

Amount spent on arrangements under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944, for the education of handicapped pupils in the financial year ended 31st March, 1954 £234

Uncleanliness

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 4. Total examinations numbered 25,135 and 249 individual children were found unclean.

The following percentages are interesting :—

Year	Percentage of average attendance found verminous		Percentage of average attendance excluded	
1945	...	7.9	...	2.9
1946	...	5.7	...	2.8
1947	...	11.5	...	2.9
1948	...	10.7	...	2.4
1949	...	8.5	...	2.2
1950	...	8.8	...	2.5
1951	...	6.7	...	2.4
1952	...	5.8	...	0.9
1953	...	4.2	...	0.9
1954	...	2.6	...	0.5

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1933 EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN

NUMBER OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS BETWEEN 1st JANUARY, 1954 AND 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

Centre for Examination	No. of Children Examined	No. of Certificates Refused
Balmoral Gardens Gillingham	59	—
Health Centre, Rainham	20	—
Total	79	—

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections

Number of inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,293
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	923
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	628
Total	...	...	...	...	2,844
Number of other Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	1,113
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	3,957

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	1,465
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	...	1,922
Total	...	...	...	3,387

C.—Pupils found to require treatment

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	7	129	132
Second Age Group ..	47	49	94
Third Age Group	45	11	55
Total (prescribed groups)	99	189	281
Other Periodic Inspections	32	70	100
Grand Total	131	259	381

TABLE II

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION
IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
	No. of defects		No. of defects	
	Requiring treat- ment	Requiring to be kept under obser- vation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under obser- vation, but not requiring treatment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	3	3	163	5
Eyes—				
a. Vision	131	24	16	6
b. Squint	19	3	—	—
c. Other	8	1	132	5
Ears—				
a. Hearing	7	11	1	—
b. Otitis Media	—	1	20	2
c. Other	2	1	25	4
Nose or Throat	148	160	4	—
Speech	19	26	2	—
Cervical Glands	1	20	—	—
Heart and Circulation	2	29	—	—
Lungs	1	12	—	—
Developmental—				
a. Hernia	3	5	—	—
b. Other	3	—	—	—
Orthopaedic—				
a. Posture	—	15	—	—
b. Flat foot	23	29	—	2
c. Other	7	12	1	—
Nervous system—				
a. Epilepsy	—	1	—	—
b. Other	—	4	—	—
Psychological—				
a. Development	—	—	1	—
b. Stability	8	3	1	—
Other	5	275	318	51

TABLE III

B. CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR
IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A. (Good)		B. (Fair)		C. (Poor)	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1,293	932	72.1	346	26.8	15	1.1
Second Age Group	923	628	68.0	265	28.7	30	3.3
Third Age Group ..	628	462	73.6	161	25.6	5	0.8
Other Periodic Inspections ..	1,113	803	72.2	276	24.8	34	3.0
Total	3,957	2,825	71.4	1,048	26.5	84	2.1

TABLE IV.

**TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
(INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)**

**GROUP I.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN
(excluding uncleanness, for which see Table VI.)**

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year.	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	5	—
(ii) Body	7	—
Scabies	2	—
Impetigo	79	3
Other skin diseases	44	6
Total ...	135	9

GROUP II.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	136	2
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ...	800	30
Total ...	936	32
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed	314	—
† (b) Obtained	258	—

† Including spectacles prescribed in 1953 and obtained in 1954.

GROUP III.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	86
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	2
Received other forms of treatment ...	34	16
Total ...	34	104

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals...	—	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) No. treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments	I	30

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	Otherwise
Pupils treated—		
(a) under Child Guidance arrangements	11	—
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements	19	—
Total ...	30	—

GROUP VI.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	442	29
(b) Catarrh, Sore Throats, Colds, etc. ...	I	6
(c) Ear defects	—	—
(d) Eye disease	—	—
Total ...	443	35

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT
BY THE AUTHORITY

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—		
(a)	Periodic age groups	... ..	2,452
(b)	Specials	... ..	3,357
	Total (1)	...	5,809
(2)	Number found to require treatment	...	5,250
(3)	Number referred for treatment	... ..	4,982
(4)	Number actually treated	... ..	4,732
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment		9,107
(6)	Half-days devoted to : Inspection	...	22
	Treatment	...	983
	Total (6)	...	1,005
(7)	Fillings : Permanent Teeth	... ..	4,180
	Temporary Teeth	... ..	1,018
	Total (7)	...	5,198
(8)	Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth		3,455
	Temporary Teeth		822
	Total (8)	...	4,277
(9)	Extractions : Permanent Teeth	... ..	1,052
	Temporary Teeth	... ..	6,214
	Total (9)	...	7,266
(10)	Administration of general anasethetics for extraction	... ..	3,024
(11)	Other operations : Permanent Teeth	...	695
	Temporary Teeth	...	29
	Total (11)	...	724

TABLE VI.
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons	25,135
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils examined ...	9,720
(iii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	249
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944).	—
(v)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—